

TOWN OF RICHLAND WATER DEPARTMENT

1 BRIDGE STREET PULASKI, NY 13142

MINUTES OF THE RICHLAND WATER ADVISORY BOARD

Date: August 2, 2022

Kind of Meeting: Regular monthly water board meeting

Place: H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse Jury Room

Water Board Members Present: Doug Schwalm, Acting Chairman

Ken Moonan

Rob Goodsell

Absent: Krista Fox

Others in Attendance:

Supervisor Ron Novak, Water Department Supervisor

Mary Yerdon, Water Department Clerk

Kern Yerdon, Town Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER: Tonight's meeting was called to order at 6:00pm with Doug Schwalm leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

New water board member, Ken Moonan was introduced to the rest of the water board.

Rob Goodsell made a motion to approve the June 7, 2022, water board minutes. It was seconded by Doug Schwalm. All were in favor.

16,247,400 gallons of water was pumped in June 2022. That is 2,246,600 more than the previous month and 2,329,000 gallons more than June 2021. July 2022 the total water pumped was 18,095,200. July 2021 water pumped was 11,030,400. We have more people hooked up to municipal water now than we did in 2021.

646 new transmitters have been installed (some are new customers). There are 436 transmitters left to install. The water operators are so busy it may take them until the end of 2023 to change the last ones over.

Feasibility

- Barton and Loguidice has finished the feasibility study for the remainder of Richland. They have presented several options to provide water to those that have requested it. One option was to provide water to areas that have a transmission line along County Route 2. Supervisor Yerdon said he personally stopped at every house and most property owners did not want it. A second option was to provide water as an extension at the end of the water mains to property owners who would like it (in some cases this was very expensive and cost prohibitive). Another option was to consider outside users to property owners in Albion who have a water main across the road (this would have to

be an intermunicipal agreement with Albion). There is also the possibility that Albion would like to enter an intermunicipal agreement to receive water as a water district similar to Sandy Creek (joint project) or Orwell (just purchasing water through a master meter). It was felt property owners not currently in a water district should be canvassed to see if there is any interest in receiving municipal water. The Richland Town Board will be meeting on this tomorrow with Barton & Loguidice.

- The question of EDU charges to Solar Farms was raised. Solar farms lease the land so the property owners are paying the EDU on those properties.

Supervisor's Report

- 15 of our suppliers (including Slack Chemical, Converse Labs, Blair) have sent notices that prices were going to increase by 8%-20%.
- The generator has been an ongoing issue at the Schoeller well site. If a major outage happens, it will have to be closely monitored. The new one is ordered but won't be available for 44 weeks.
- The chlortec system has failed several times. Today 6 hours was spent rebuilding it. \$1500-\$2000 in parts will need to be ordered. Three months ago the other poly tube failed. The backup is hypochlorite. Supervisor Novak would like to switch chemical pumps and have the ones at the Schoeller well site the same as the Fernwood ones. Fernwood has chlorinator and is a better product with less problems. Supervisor Novak was told there will be a 5% to 8% increase if ordered after August 15. He would like to purchase new ones before that date-possibly with ARPA money.
- Glider oil replaced Suburban Propane at our Schoeller well site. Suburban charged us \$60/year for tank rental and \$6.99/gallon plus a delivery fee. Glider replaced the 1,000-gallon tank and filled it for \$2.19/gallon, no tank rental fee, and no special delivery charge. The Central Water Works Facility on CO RT 41 tank was already replaced.
- The roof on the shed at the Fernwood well Site has been replaced. There was a tarp on it for 2 years and it leaked. Estimates for a new roof were received but Kevin Balcom said the highway department could do it for less. The Highway department completed the job.
- Well number 2 has a bad diaphragm in the chemical pump. There is not one on the East Coast, but it has been ordered.
- The cotter keys in the curb boxes are made of carbon steel rather than stainless steel. Ron brought in examples of the curb stop where it hooks to the curb rod. They were both rusted and are being replaced with stainless steel. The cotter key is what holds the connection from the curb stop to the rod that turns the valve on/off. If the cotter key rusts and breaks, you cannot turn the water off at that valve. In the future stainless-steel rods and cotter keys will be used when replacing any of these parts. The cotter key difference in price between carbon steel and stainless steel is \$.65 and the difference in the curb rod is \$4.00. It's a \$600.00 repair for each of these that break. It requires a track hoe and three people to dig it up and fix, all because \$4.65 in parts rusted. The highway department is going to assist (with track hoe and manpower) in repairing broken valve boxes on August 10 and 11. Supervisor Novak would like to look at specifications on parts for all future projects. He would also like to see consistency in purchasing parts that do the same job (ex: fire hydrants).

- Hydrant paint that was ordered came in, but the Operators likely won't be painting until they can get extra help. The red pigment comes from China, and it is very hard to get right now. Supervisor Novak purchased 8 gallons, but it takes one gallon to paint 3 hydrants. We have around 400 hydrants to paint. Recently the 2018 report from Superintendent Fox was handed in. At that time the flushing report indicated 100 hydrants needed painted. 720 hydrants should have weeds cleaned around them (it would take 3 men 3 days to complete this. Hydrants need to be maintained. 20% of the caps are not coming off easily; this requires more maintenance. The highway did not have a 48" wrench to assist in the cap removal; the water department bought one at \$450.00.
- A contractor will have to be hired to install a tap on the property at the corner of NYS 3 and NYS 13. The property owner will be paying the cost which may be as high as \$3000.00.
- Locks have been installed on the electric panels to all vaults.
- Richland Fire Company was testing pressure on hydrants in their fire district. They found insufficient pressure on one. B&L will correct the issue through the contractor- WD Malone.
- Valve boxes throughout the water district must be marked to locate them when needed. They were not easily detected until the proper flags were in place.
- Callouts for the operators have been significantly reduced. Problem areas have been repaired instead of temporarily fixed saving several hundred dollars in callouts each month.
- The parking lot at the Central Water Works building should be sealed. Water from the water salesman (especially in the winter) will get under the pavement if it is not sealed causing cracks. Supervisor Novak has received bids. Mr. Novak is hoping we can use the money collected from the water salesman to pay for the sealing. Doug Schwalm suggested Mr. Novak get a price from Great Lakes Sealant. The water salesman will be shut down for 48 hours to do this project.
- The Town Board authorized the purchase of Storz valves for the fire hydrants. There was a discussion on the time it saves to have them in the event of a fire. There is still a need for more Storz valves (400). **Doug Schwalm made a motion to recommend to the Town Board to purchase 100 more Storz valves at \$155.00 each from Core & Maine. Rob Goodsell seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

At 8:00 Ken Moonan made a motion to close the meeting. Doug Schwalm seconded it.

The next water board meeting is scheduled for September 6 at 6pm at the H. Douglas Barclay Courthouse.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Yerdon
Town of Richland Water Department Clerk